NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
1942.

LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

This report, the fourth of the war period, is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in a Ministry of Health Circular dated 10th March 1943 which directs that it shall be on lines similar to previous wartime reports and confined to essential matters affecting Public Health or arising out of the war.

It can be said at once that in spite of wartime restrictions of every kind especially of food, the year was a remarkably healthy one. The death rate was rather lower than usual and there was an almost complete absence of epidemic disease among the children. A very different picture to the year before when there were 57 cases of Scarlet Fever and 56 of Diphtheria. As regards the latter disease how much of its absence was due to the high percentage of children who received protective inoculation cannot be definately stated, but it is very suggestive and I think more than a coincidence. Generally speaking, the child population appears as well as ever it did, perhaps better and this may well be due to the large quantities of milk they now consume combined with Lord Woolton's excellent bread.

INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE	CASES	SENT TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Diphtheria	9	9	1
Scarlet Fever	22	18	0
Pneumonia	10	0	0
Measles	3	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	2	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0
Erysipelas	8	1	0

The above table compares very favourably with any prewar year.

DIPHTHERIA

Of the nine cases seven occurred in the Approved School, a closed community. Of the other two, one only was an undoubted case of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

The 22 cases were of the prevailing mild type and occurred from time to time throughout the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The mass inoculations done in 1941 which resulted at the end of the year in approximately 75% of the children being protected, could not continue indefinately owing to lack of numbers but every effort was made to keep alive the interest of parents in the matter and sessions were held every fortnight throughout 1942. Including a few done privately the number of children who completed the course during the year was -
under 5 - 208 over 5 - 290 Total 498.

.HIGHWAY DISTRICT BOARD NORTHERN

.NOTICE TO ELECTORS RELATIVE TO

.MEETING OF BOARD

.Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the above Board will be held at the Office of the Board, Main Street, Kelvin, on Monday, the 7th day of March, 1921, at 10 o'clock a.m.

.Business to be transacted:

.To consider the Estimates for the year 1921.

.To consider the question of borrowing money for the purpose of purchasing a Motor Grader.

.To consider the question of purchasing a Motor Truck.

.To consider the question of purchasing a Tractor.

.To consider the question of purchasing a Motor Truck.

.To consider the question of purchasing a Motor Truck.

.To consider the question of purchasing a Motor Truck

This is fairly satisfactory, especially as regards the older children of whom there cannot be many now unprotected. But of those under 5 there are, owing to ignorance or indifference on the part of the parents, still a considerable number not yet protected and efforts are being made to affect an improvement in this respect.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ministry of Health records show that there has been an increased incidence of this disease throughout the country since war began but the comparativly small numbers with which we have to deal here show little difference from the normal.

Cases notified - Male 10 Female 8 Total 18
Deaths - Male 7 Female 4 Total 11 (8 lung cases)

Number of Tubercular persons living in the District at the end of the year - Male 96 Female 72 Total 168.

THE EVACUEES.

Though not nearly as common as it used to be, the Cockney accent is still occasionally heard in the streets and inquiries show that on December 31st last there were about 700 evacuated persons living in the District. Not all of these are Londoners as there is a fair sprinkling from Bristol and Plymouth and latterly from Teignmouth. Of the 700 mentioned above 340 are unaccompanied children.

THE EVACUEE HOSTELS.

Of the three hostels jointly shared with the Rural District two, Milton House (Boys) Newton Abbot and Tapley House (Girls) Bishopsteignton have now been closed, the inmates having so decreased in number that the expense of keeping them going was no longer justified. During their time they served a very useful purpose.

The Hostel for Scabies and Contagious Skin Diseases at Loraine, Forde Park, now the only one left, is still in active use as though most of the evacuees have gone, they have left plentiful evidence of their former existance here. The chief sufferers are now the local children.

During the 12 months 31st December 1942 the numbers were as follows:-

INPATIENTS.

Newton Urban 60, Newton Rural 50, Teignmouth 8, Dawlish 10, Ashburton 6. TOTAL 140.

This number represents - Scabies 114, Impetigo 26.

OUTPATIENTS.

Newton Urban 75, Newton Rural 52, Teignmouth 1, Ashburton 1. TOTAL 129.

The grand total 269 is 36 less than the year before. The treatment consists in two (at least) applications of a proprietary preparation of Benzyl Benzoate.

CLEANSING STATION.

The Council's Cleansing Station situated at the County Council School Clinic, 44 Devon Square, for the purpose of disinfesting verminous children, still fulfills its useful purpose and during the year dealt with 341 heads. Latterly, owing to the return of evacuees, there has been a considerable drop in the numbers.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1942.

Population 15400 (a decrease of 2000)

Live Births	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate	116	94	226	Birth rate equals
Illegitimate	9	9		14.6 per 1000.

Average birth rate for last 10 years 11.1
England and Wales birth rate 15.8

Still births.

2	1	3	equals rate of 13 per 1000 total births

Deaths.

92	97	189	Death rate equals 12.2 per 1000.

England and Wales death rate equals 11.6

Maternal Mortality (childbirth) Nil.

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year) 5	-	5	equals rate of 22 per 1000 live births.

England and Wales rate 49.

W. H. SCOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.